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Mahathir-Professional

MALAYSIAN CIVIL SERVANTS ARE PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE- DR MAHATHIR

KUCHING, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister said today Malaysian civil servants including the military and police are professional in their attitude and this by and large has contributed to the present rapid development of Malaysia.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said civil servants in Malaysia were discharging their duties in accordance with the laws of the country and did not side with any political party.

They were carrying out their work diligently and were steadfastly implementing the decisions and policies of the government of the day, he said during a dialogue with Federal and Sarawak civil servants here.

"However if they begin to question the decisions of the government merely because they are supporting another political party, then all the decisions made by the government cannot be implemented," the Prime Minister said.

Some 600 civil servants were present at the dialogue as well as Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud.

Sarawak has 75,000 civil servants of whom 50,000 were serving in Federal departments.

He said if government decisions could not be implemented by civil servants then the country would not develop.

Dr Mahathir said there were certain groups which were making increasing efforts through various avenues to obstruct civil servants so that they would no longer be loyal to the government elected by the people.

"Some have become influenced.....I hope this group will disappear but if the majority of the civil servants are not loyal to the government then we will not be able to help the people," he said.

He said there was no country with a government whose decisions were all perfect and was free of mistakes.

"When we look at Malaysia and the decisions that have been made by the government....we can see there is development taking place and this means that the decisions have been correct," he said.

The Prime Minister said there were also more extreme groups working towards ensuring that all government decisions were not implemented so that the government would collapse and another party could take over.

"When this party comes up, the supporters of the old government will sabotage the new government and if this continues, there will be scores of government changes and nothing can be done in the country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was important to have a strong government in Sarawak with a two-thirds majority in the legislature and also at the Federal level.

"This is not because we are power crazy but because a strong government can implement decisions for the benefit of the people without any fear of being toppled," he added.

--BERNAMA

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